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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SAIGON 27812

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 27753

SUBJECT: THIEU-KY

1. I HAD A FURTHER REPORT EVENING JUNE 8 FROM WHO HAS BEEN PURSUING HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS VIGOROUSLY. SAID THAT THIEU AND KY HAD GOTTEN TOGETHER FOR A TALK ALONE AND HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM AMICABLY

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BUT WITHOUT ANY SOLUTION EMERGING. THIEU HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE HAVE A FURTHER TALK WITH DIEM ABOUT IT.

2. MET THIS MORNING WITH KIEU AND THEN HAD SEVERAL HOURS WITH GENERAL THIEU. HE FOUND THIEU STILL UNHAPPY ABOUT THE SITUATION BUT HIS FEELINGS WERE DIRECTED AT SOME OF THE GENERALS AROUND THE PRIME MINISTER RATHER THAN KY HIMSELF. HE STILL RESENTED THANG'S BLUNT PRESENTATION OF THE GENERALS' DICISION TO HIM AND HE HAD MORE RECENTLY BEEN UPSET BY INFORMATION MINISTER GENERAL THI'S HEAVY CENSORING OF CERTAIN OF HIS STATEMENTS MADE TO THE PRESS. SAID THIEU DID NOT HARBOR BAD FEELINGS AGAINST KY, HOWEVER, AND WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE QUESTION FURTHER.

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3. PURSUED THE MATTER AT LENGTH WITH THIEU, TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT PRACTICAL SOLUTION MIGHT MEET GENERAL THIEU'S WISHES. MENTIONED AGAIN THE POSITIONS AS CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OR HEADING A TICKET FOR THE SENATE.

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 12/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Saigon 27812 6-8-67

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ADDED HERE THAT JGS CHIEF GENERAL VIEN HAD ASSURED HIM YES-

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TERDAY THAT HE WOULD DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY IF THIEU WISHED TO TAKE OVER THIS POSITION.) SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET THIEU TO SPECIFY WHAT PRACTICAL SOLUTION MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM, ; HOWEVER. THIEU REITERATED THAT HE HAD GOVEN HIS WORD OF HONOR THAT HE WOULD NOT SPLIT THE MILITARY NOR UNDERMINE STABILITY IN VIETNAM AND HE STOOD BY THESE WORDS.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY HAD A LONG TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER KY AND DESCRIBED THIEU'S ATTITUDE AND VIEWS. KY SAID HE WOULD HAVE ANOTHER PERSONAL TALK WITH THIEU ON JUNE 9, FOLLOWING THE DIRECTORATE MEETING. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIEU'S PERSONAL PRESTIGE WAS THE PRIMARY FACTOR AND HE WAS PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER WAS NEEDED TO MEET HIS WISHES. HE SAID HE WOULD TELL THIEU THIS AND WOULD OFFER TO ACCOMPANY THIEU ON A TRIP TO I CORPS TO SHOW THEIR SOLIDARITY AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THIEU WAS THE CHIEF OF STATE. SAID THIEU HAD NOT YET ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO GO THERE BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES AMONG THE GENERALS.)

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5. SAID HE WAS ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT KY HAD COMPLETE GOOD WILL IN HIS INTENTIONS AND THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE . IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ANYTHING IMPORTANT WAS LIKELY TO OCCUR IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHEN I WOULD BE IN KATHMANDU, SAID HE WAS SURE THAT IT WOULD NOT. HE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT KY AND THIEU AND THOSE AROUND THEM WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ANY "ADVENTURES" AND ADDED THAT KY ALSO HAD MENTIONED THAT HE HAD GIVEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON HIS WORD OF HONOR THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT BE SPLIT. ALSO REITERATED HIS STRONG VIEW THAT WE SOULD NOT INTERVENE DIRECTLY AT THIS STAGE AND SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD HAVE PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE NECESSITY TO SETTLE THIS PROBLEM IN AN ASIAN WAY. HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT NOTHING SIGNIFICANT WOULD BE DECIDED FOR THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. ALTHOUGH DECISIONS WOULD HAVE TO

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BE MADE BEFORE THE EARLY JULY FILING DATE FOR CANDIDACIES. HE MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THIEU HAD SAID AT ONE POINT THAT HE MIGHT RETIRE ENTIRELY FROM THE ARMED FORCES AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND PLAY A ROLE ONLY AS A PURELY PRIVATE CITIZEN.

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6. COMMENT: IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HAS BEEN MAKING SOME HEADWAY AND THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ALLOW HIM AND [redacted] TO CONTINUE THEIR HELPFUL EFFORTS. ALTHOUGH S TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO RETURN TO JUNE 11, OR AT LEAST A COUPLE OF WEEKS, HE ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD NOT LEAVE THEN IF HE FELT HIS PRECENCE WAS NEEDED HERE, OR HE WOULD RETURN MORE PROMPTLY IF THAT WAS INDICATED. BUNKER
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE AT 1:15 PM 6/8/67

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